

LIBRARY

Middlewich Urban District
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1945

by the

The Medical Officer of Health

Middlewich Urban District
Council

ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year

1945

by the

The Medical Officer of Health

MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1945

To the Chairman and Members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1945.

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area 1,956 acres.

Population. Registrar-General's latest estimate of population 5,926
Number of inhabited houses at April, 1946 1,765
(includes 4 post-war properties)

Rateable value (April, 1946) £26,864
Sum represented by a penny rate ... £105 1 5

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	114	55	59
Illegitimate	12	6	6

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 21.26.

Stillbirths:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, nil.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	68	36	32

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.47.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

		Rate per 1,000
	Deaths total	(live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	1	7.93
Total	...	<u>1</u>
		<u>7.93</u>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	55.55
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	52.63
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	83.33

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	11
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	1

The following table compares the main statistics for 1945 with those of the war years:—

	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Population	...	6,202	6,199	6,435	6,254	6,097	6,020
Birth Rate	...	14.67	13.87	18.18	20.94	20.82	21.59
Death Rate	...	12.24	13.84	10.72	10.71	10.82	12.62

Infant Death

Rate	54.9	58.13	58.82	53.43	23.62	38.46	55.55
No. of deaths from Cancer	5	12	10	7	9	12	11
No. of deaths from Tuberculosis	3	—	1	4	1	6	2

CAUSES OF DEATH—1945.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

		Male	Female	Total
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—
2	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	—	—

			Male	Female	Total
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	1	1	2
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	—	—	—
9	Influenza	...	—	—	—
10	Measles	...	—	—	—
11	Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	...	—	—	—
12	Ac. inf. enceph.	...	—	1	1
13	Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph. (M.), uterus (F.)		1	—	1
14	Cancer of stomach or duodenum	...	3	2	5
15	Cancer of Breast	...	—	2	2
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	2	1	3
17	Diabetes	...	—	1	1
18	Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	2	2	4
19	Heart Diseases	...	9	7	16
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	2	—	2
21	Bronchitis	...	1	1	2
22	Pneumonia	...	1	—	1
23	Other Respiratory Diseases		1	1	2
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	1	—	1
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	1	—	1
26	Appendicitis	...	—	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases		3	1	4
28	Nephritis	...	—	—	—
29	Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	...	—	—	—
30	Other maternal causes	...	—	1	1
31	Premature Birth	...	1	1	2
32	Congenital Debility and Malformations	...	—	2	2
33	Suicide	...	—	—	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	—	—	—
35	Other Violent Causes	...	2	—	2
36	All other causes	...	5	8	13
	Totals		36	32	68

Section B—General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

No new or special provisions under this heading were made during the year other than the arrangement whereby, in the absence of a Middlewich Ambulance, the Northwich Urban Ambulance Service should also serve the needs of the Middlewich Urban area. This reciprocal arrangement came into being on the 1st January, 1946, since which date 21 Middlewich residents have shared in the benefits of the Northwich Service.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water.

During the year 7 samples of the Town's supply were examined by the County Analyst and were reported upon as follows:—

	Results.
19/3/45 Tap at Manor Lodge	“A highly ferruginous water, unpresentable in appearance, no suggestion of recent sewage or allied contamination . . . the supply is an undesirable one from the point of view of the domestic user.”
19/3/45 Delivery Pipe to Reservoir at Delamere (raw).	“Water of an exceptional degree of organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological condition . . . supply satisfactory as to plumbosolvency.”
19/3/45 Tap at 114, Lewin Street (chlorinated).	“Water of an exceptional degree of organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological condition . . . supply satisfactory as to plumbosolvency and Residual Chlorine 0.1 p.p.m.”

24/4/45	Inlet to Reservoir at Delamere Water-works (raw).	"A wholesome and potable water of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity and of thoroughly sound bacteriological condition."
24/4/45	Tap in field at The Manor.	"A wholesome and potable water of a satisfactory degree of organic purity and of sound bacteriological condition."
13/11/45	Water from Tap at Yoxall's Farm. (Manor supply).	"Analytically a wholesome and potable water of a high degree of organic purity."
13/11/45	Manor Parklands Collection Wells.	"Highly corrosive on iron (free carbondioxide content of the water equal to 36 p.p.m.) . . . is manifestly unfit for general domestic usage."

The unsatisfactory samples recorded above have since been replaced by a piped water supply which is both sound in quality and quantity.

As to availability of the supply, all but four of the 1,765 houses in the Urban District are supplied by the Council's own public supply into the house itself. The quality of the water going to the four houses receiving a private supply is satisfactory.

There are no standpipes in the area.

The Town's supply has no plumbo-solvent action, and as a safeguard against bacterial contamination chlorination is regularly applied.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

I have nothing fresh to report under this heading.

Closet Accommodation.

No conversions to the water carriage system were carried out during 1945 and the number of houses still on pails in the Urban area totals 60.

Public Cleansing.

The direction of the clearance and disposal of house refuse was transferred to the Health Department during the year and has proceeded very satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of Services of Notices	
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand
1. Dwelling Houses	583	—	17	16	1
2. Tents, Vans & Sheds	22	2	—	2	—
3. Courts, Yards & Passages	10	—	1	1	—
4. Sanitary Conveniences ..	2,331	—	61	59	2
5. Ashbins, Ashpits & Disposal	2,510	—	83	83	—
6. House Drainage	28	—	1	1	—
7. Ditches & Watercourses ..	24	—	1	1	—
8. Keeping of Animals	12	—	4	4	—
9. Slaughterhouses	100	—	1	1	—
10. Inspection of Food	384	—	4	4	—
11. Piggeries	15	—	1	1	—
12. Dairies & Milkshops	36	—	1	1	—
13. Factories & Workshops ...	12	—	—	—	—
14. Bakehouses	24	—	1	1	—
15. Offensive Trades	2	—	—	—	—
16. Overcrowding	24	—	3	3	—
17. Canal Boats	6	—	1	1	—
18. Infectious Diseases, &c, ...	195	—	—	—	—
19. Miscellaneous	50	—	3	3	—
 Totals ...	6,368	2	183	182	3

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	6	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	4	1	—
Other Premises	2	—	—
 Totals	12	2	—

All factories were kept free of nuisance, emergency exits kept clear; all factories and workshops use the Town's water for drinking and washing purposes. Emergency doors kept in good order.

Section D.—Housing

The number of houses visited during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspector was 583 and such urgent repairs as were found to be necessary were carried out. Families living in overcrowded conditions undoubtedly exist but such records as we have at the moment are incomplete.

One house was voluntarily demolished by the owner as reconditioning would only have been possible at a prohibitive cost.

During 1945 the Council's post-war housing programme was initiated and various sites were considered and negotiations for the purchase of land put in hand. At the time of writing (1946) the construction of 26 three-bedroom type permanent houses is well in hand and plans are afoot for a further 46 permanent and 20 temporary houses.

Section E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.

During the year 30 samples of milk were submitted to the Laboratories for examination with the following results:—

For Cleanliness Tests:—

- 15 samples of pasteurised milk taken at the Depot were satisfactory.
- 6 samples of raw milk were satisfactory.
- 4 samples of raw milk were unsatisfactory.
- 3 samples of accredited milk were unsatisfactory.
- 1 sample of pasteurised milk as delivered to consumers was satisfactory.
- 1 sample of pasteurised milk as delivered to consumers was unsatisfactory.

Appropriate action was taken in respect of all the unsatisfactory samples.

One new dairy was completed during 1945 and another is in course of erection.

(b) Meat.

No Slaughterhouses in the Middlewich Urban area were used for the slaughtering of animals for human consumption during the year. All local butchers draw their meat from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Sandbach. None of this meat was condemned during the year by the Inspector but some 299 tins of food, chiefly milk and fish, were destroyed and 92 lbs. of other foods were either destroyed or returned to the wholesaler.

(c) Other Foods.

The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year and with a view to trying to limit the incidence of Food Poisoning, which since 1939 has been a notifiable disease, a circular letter was addressed in May, 1945 to all proprietors of food preparing premises, caterers, canteens, etc., in the Urban area, setting out the causes of Food Poisoning and the simple measures needed to limit its incidence. Possibly this was useful as no cases of this disease were notified during the year.

The requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were considered, no action having previously been taken for the formal registration of Food and Ice Cream preparing premises in October 1939. 6 applications for registration (5 for prepared meats and 1 for Ice Cream) were received during the year and others for Fish and Chip shop premises are being considered.

(d) Bakehouses.

All bakehouses in the Town have been regularly inspected and found to be in a clean state with an adequate and wholesome supply of water and washing accommodation.

Section F.—Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, other than Measles, was low and calls for no special comment. No case of Diphtheria was notified during the course of the year.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1945.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	9	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Measles	96	2	—
Whooping Cough	4	—	—

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	13	—	13
Haemolytic Streptococci	1	—	1

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	—

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1944—58.

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1945—48.

15 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year and all were reported upon as negative.

It should be mentioned that whilst during the years 1938—1944 the number of Tuberculosis patients on the Town's Register almost doubled itself from 31 cases to 58 cases, some of the 1945 reduction (from 58 to 48 cases) is accounted for by a review made, with the County Medical Officer's and Local Doctors' assistance, of the register as a whole and the removal therefrom of a limited number of old recovered cases.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1941—1945 the progress made in the Urban area under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which was commenced jointly in 1941 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee, can be gathered from the following figures:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
Percentage of children treated between 0-4 years of age inclusive:	23.5%	44.5%	62.4%	53.6%	52.2%
Percentage of children treated between 5-14 years of age inclusive:	78%	84.5%	83.7%	82.1%	86.9%

The total number of children known definitely to have received protective treatment in the Middlewich Urban area up to December 1945 was 1,534 to which may be added an estimate of 54 children dealt with privately through their own Doctors. In addition 135 children have received "booster" injections.

A certain number of children, whose parents prefer it, receive the treatment privately through their own Doctors to whom the Ministry of Health's free supply of prophylactics is made available for this purpose. I have no exact knowledge of the numbers of all the children dealt with in this way so the percentages recorded above do not now include them.

Also thanks to closer co-operation in this work of immunisation with the County Council, as the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area, the slight setback in the percentages of "under fives" recorded above in 1945 will I think be remedied when the current year's figures come to be worked out.

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1945.

The steady reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following:—

	1942	1943	1944	1945
Cases of Scabies	...	...	153	104
Cases of Pediculosis	...	...	6	—
Cases of Scabies and Impetigo		17	41	5
	—	—	—	—
Total	176	145	43	25

Number of households involved 76 74 29 11

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least once during the year. 16 houses were disinfested successfully using D.D.T. preparations as soon as they became available to Local Authorities for this purpose. In particular the arrangements made for the disinfection of mattresses and bedding of Tuberculosis cases have been "tightened up" and full use of the steam disinfecter at the Davenham Isolation Hospital has been made during the year.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1946.

